

30 March 1955

AFRO-ASIAN CONFERENCE

- I. All but one of 25 countries, invited by the five Colombo Powers, have accepted bid to meet in Bandung on 18 Apr.
 - A. Only Central African Federation (newly-formed UK colony) has declined.
 - B. Total of 29 conferees represent more than half of world's population (1.4 billion). Interesting side-light on polyglot group is that English will be "official language."
 - C. 15 of 29 share history as former colonies or protectorates of Western nations.
 - D. Of remainder, almost all have received "imperialist" treatment at hands of West in past hundred years.
 - E. In making up invitation list, sponsors adopted no clear-cut qualifications--even Nehru stated that invitees were "an odd assortment."
- II. Provisional agenda carries 8 topics.
 - A. Number one: "Promotion of world peace and cooperation: problems of lessening of international tensions: co-existence."
 - B. Next: "Progress in Indochina."
 - C. Third: "Racial discrimination and racial problems."
 - D. Next: "Problem of dependent people, in colonial areas and trust territories."

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E. Fifth: "Nuclear energy, in war and peace."

F. Sixth: "Programmes of economic development; ways and means of cooperation within the Asian-African region."

G. Seventh: "Cultural cooperation."

H. Last: "Desirability of holding cultural festivals in participating countries on appropriate occasions."

III. Agenda reflects strong Indian influence. Also, although sponsors have professed desire avoid controversy, such an agenda actually gravy-train for Communists.

A. Commies can assume posture on side of angels time after time, express pious views, avoid aggressive appearance.

B. Tip-off to tone of conference may be given in Indonesian president Sukarno's opening address.

IV. ChiComs, Viet Minh working hard for big splash at Bandung.

A. Although delegations limited to 20, Peiping sending 24, plus a reported 30 "security" guards.

B. Viet Minh sending only 15, but Chief Delegate will be wisp-bearded saintly Ho Chi Minh, living personification of triumphant nationalism in eyes of many.

C. Leader of Chinese delegation will be Premier Chou En-lai.

1. Both Chou and Ho not only extremely adroit negotiators, but possess unusual ability to charm others.

D. Measure of Communist expectations seen in press coverage plans: 12 TASS men, 2 from London Daily Worker,

¹⁵
~~20-30~~ Chinese.

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1. Chinese reportedly planning file 10,000 words a day.
- V. Communists will have chance for trial run of Bandung "line" sort of dress rehearsal--the unofficial 6-10 April "Asian Conference to Relax International Tensions" at New Delhi.
 - A. Delhi meet, sponsored by Commie-front All India Peace Council and where USSR will be present, will be attended by private groups from several Asian and Middle Eastern countries which will also have government delegations at Bandung.
 1. Agenda remarkably similar to Bandung's.
 - B. (See separate card on U Nu's "Houseparty").
- VI. Neutralist bloc (total: six) will have Nehru as spokesman, dominating figure. Other important neutralists:
 - A. U Nu (Burma) - Devout Buddhist, Premier throughout entire turbulent post-independence period. Although shooting local Commies, Nu is staunch advocate of neutrality in foreign relations, feels best way to deal with ChiComs is be nice to them.
 - B. Ali Sastroamidjojo (Indonesia) - heads neutralist cabinet which depends on Indonesian Commies to stay in office.
 - C. Khalid Al-Azm (Syria) - shrewd, ambitious opportunist, dominant figure in present neutralist Syrian cabinet: plays anti-Western line.
 - D. Delegations from remaining two neutralists - Afghanistan, Nepal - are insignificant: will follow Nehru.

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VII. Line-up of others makes outlook for West not at all bad.

- A. 21 of 29 participants are strongly anti-Communist; of these, 12 are closely linked to West.
- B. Among these delegates are such experienced and eloquent advocates of co-operation with West as:
 - 1. Romulo (Philippines).
 - 2. Zorlu (Turkey).
 - 3. Wan (Thailand).
 - 4. Jamali (Iraq).
 - 5. Mohammed Ali (Pakistan).
 - 6. Kotelawala (Ceylon).
 - 7. Amini (Iran) - able Finance Minister: did outstanding job on oil negotiations.
 - 8. Malik (Lebanon) also may attend, although not heading delegation.
 - 9. Japanese delegation head not yet chosen. Although likely to be "shy" at postwar debut, anxious not to offend Peiping and also keeping eyes peeled for trade prospects, Japanese nonetheless expected to vote right.
- C. Further factor favorable to West is possible development Sino-Indian rivalry.
 - 1. Nehru not believed favorably disposed to domination of conference or show-stealing by ChiComs.
- D. Chinese will probably behave "correctly," press claim to Formosa.
 - 1. Will find Conference useful place to plant advance justification for future Formosa action.

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